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2 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
3 DISTRICT OF NEVADA

4 William H. Ball,

5 Plaintiff

6 v.

7 Ramparts LLC,

8 Defendant

Case No. 2:24-cv-01754-CDS-NJK

Order Adopting Magistrate Judge's  
Report and Recommendation

[ECF No. 13]

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10 United States Magistrate Judge Nancy J. Koppe screened plaintiff William H. Ball's  
11 complaint and allowed his age-related employment discrimination claim against defendant  
12 Ramparts LLC to proceed. Order, ECF No. 7. Ball was ordered to serve the summons and  
13 complaint in compliance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(m) within ninety days. *Id.* at 4.  
14 However, the copy of the order mailed to Ball was returned as undeliverable.<sup>1</sup> ECF No. 10. Judge  
15 Koppe then ordered Ball to notify the court of his current address, in compliance with Local  
16 Rule IA 3-1 ("pro se party must immediately file with the court written notification of any  
17 change of mailing address"), no later than February 25, 2025. ECF No. 12. Although that order  
18 was also mailed to Ball, it has not been returned. Neither has Judge Koppe's March 3, 2025  
19 report and recommendation. R&R, ECF No. 13. There, Judge Koppe recommends dismissal  
20 without prejudice due to Ball's failure to comply with the court's orders. *Id.* Ball had until March  
21 17, 2025, to file any specific written objections to the magistrate judge's findings and

22  
23 <sup>1</sup> Ball's mail has also been returned as undeliverable and he has failed to respond to the court's orders to  
24 update his address in additional cases he filed in this district. *See* ECF No. 9 in *Ball v. Equifax Info. Servs.*,  
25 2:24-cv-01449-GMN-NJK; ECF No. 19 in *Ball v. NP Sunset LLC*, 2:24-cv-01450-CDS-NJK; ECF No. 21 in *Ball*  
26 *v. NP Boulder LLC*, 2:24-cv-01451-CDS-NJK; ECF No. 23 in *Ball v. Station GVR Acquisition*, 2:24-cv-01453-  
CDS-NJK; ECF Nos. 9, 10 in *Ball v. Palms Casino and Resort LLC*, 2:24-cv-01454-CDS-NJK; ECF No. 20 in  
*Ball v. NP Palace LLC*, 2:24-cv-01455-CDS-NJK; ECF Nos. 10, 11 in *Ball v. Circa Hotel and Casino, LLC*, 2:24-cv-  
01457-CDS-NJK; ECF No. 11 in *Ball v. New York New York Hotel and Casino LLC*, 2:24-cv-01458-CDS-NJK;  
ECF No. 10 in *Ball v. Park MGM Casino, LLC*, 2:24-cv-01753-CDS-NJK; ECF No. 10 in *Ball v. Tuscany Hotel and*  
*Casino, LLC*, 2:24-cv-01756-CDS-NJK; ECF No. 12 in *Ball v. Oyo Hotel & Casino, LLC*, 2:24-cv-01757-CDS-  
NJK.

1 recommendations (citing Local Rule IB 3-2(a) (stating that parties wishing to object to an R&R  
2 must file specific written objections within fourteen days)); *see also* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1) (same).  
3 *Id.* at 2. As of the date of this order, Ball has neither objected, updated his address, nor otherwise  
4 responded in any way. Because no review is required of a magistrate judge's report and  
5 recommendation unless objections are filed, I adopt it here. *Schmidt v. Johnstone*, 263 F. Supp. 2d  
6 1219, 1226 (D. Ariz. 2003); *see also Thomas v. Arn*, 474 U.S. 140, 150 (1985); *United States v. Reyna-*  
7 *Tapia*, 328 F.3d 1114, 1121 (9th Cir. 2003).

8         The R&R informally addresses some of the *Thompson v. Housing Authority of the City of Los*  
9 *Angeles* dismissal factors: "(1) the public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the  
10 court's need to manage its docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public  
11 policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits, and (5) the availability of less drastic  
12 sanctions." 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986). I adopt the R&R's consideration of these factors  
13 and expand upon them here, finding that they weigh in favor of dismissal.

14         Not only has Ball failed to follow the magistrate judge's orders, but he has also failed to  
15 serve the summons and complaint. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(c)(1) makes it clear that  
16 "[t]he plaintiff is responsible for having the summons and complaint served within the time  
17 allowed under Rule 4(m)." The court cannot expeditiously resolve a case if the plaintiff fails to  
18 fulfill his obligations in prosecuting an action. That is why it has long been recognized that the  
19 court's inherent power to control its docket includes the ability to issue sanctions of dismissal  
20 where appropriate. *Thompson*, 782 F.2d at 831.

21         As to the risk of prejudice to the defendants, Rule 4(m) requires service of the summons  
22 and complaint to be completed within ninety days of the complaint's filing, and "[i]f a defendant  
23 is not served within 90 days after the complaint is filed, the court—on motion or on its own  
24 after notice to the plaintiff—must dismiss the action without prejudice against that defendant  
25 or order that service be made within a specified time." Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(m). Ball has not offered  
26 any excuse for his failure to comply with Rule 4(m), which has caused an unexplained and

1 unreasonable delay; and “a presumption of prejudice arises from a plaintiff’s unexplained failure  
2 to prosecute.” *Laurino v. Syringa Gen. Hosp.*, 279 F.3d 750, 753 (9th Cir. 2002) (recognizing that “a  
3 presumption of prejudice arises from a plaintiff’s unexplained failure to prosecute,” but finding  
4 that the plaintiff provided a non-frivolous explanation for his lack of diligence).

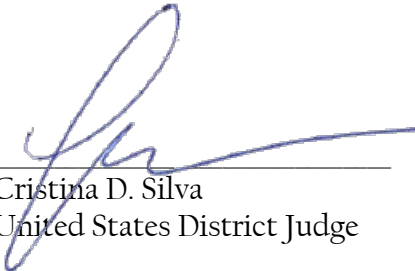
5         The fourth factor, the public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits, always  
6 weighs against dismissal. But this case cannot move toward resolution, on the merits or  
7 otherwise, due to Ball’s failure to serve the defendant. As the plaintiff in this action, it is Ball’s  
8 responsibility to move the case toward disposition on the merits. *See Morris v. Morgan Stanley Co.*,  
9 942 F.2d 648, 652 (9th Cir. 1991) (observing that it is the responsibility of the moving party to  
10 move toward disposition on the merits). Thus, “this factor lends little support to a party whose  
11 responsibility it is to move a case toward disposition on the merits but whose conduct impedes  
12 progress in that direction.” *In re Phenylpropanolamine (PPA) Prods. Liab. Litig.*, 460 F.3d 1217, 1228  
13 (9th Cir. 2006). I therefore find that the fourth factor is greatly outweighed by the factors  
14 favoring dismissal.

15         As Judge Koppe noted, sanctions less drastic than dismissal are unavailable here. ECF  
16 No. 13 at 1. First, this litigation cannot move forward without service of process, and Ball was  
17 warned that his failure to comply would result in dismissal. ECF Nos. 12, 14. Second, no lesser  
18 sanction is available when a court cannot contact a plaintiff to discuss the alternatives; and  
19 issuing another order is not a meaningful alternative in this circumstance. *Carey v. King*, 856 F.2d  
20 1439, 1441 (9th Cir. 1988) (“An order to show cause why dismissal was not warranted or an  
21 order imposing sanctions would only find itself taking a round trip tour through the United  
22 States mail.”).

Conclusion

Because Ball has failed to comply with court orders, has not demonstrated that service has been effectuated in the time prescribed by Rule 4(m), and has not objected to the recommendation of dismissal, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the magistrate judge's report and recommendation [ECF No. 13] is adopted in full, and this case is dismissed without prejudice. The Clerk of Court is kindly directed to enter judgment accordingly, and to close this case.

Dated: March 25, 2025



Cristina D. Silva  
United States District Judge